

JURISDICTION:

**PUERTO RICO**

This chapter summarizes the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico statutes related to speed.

General Reference:

Laws of Puerto Rico Annotated Current through the 1995 sessions of the Puerto Rico Legislature.

Basis for a Speed Law Violation:

Basic Speed Rule:

The speed of a motor vehicle shall be regulated with due care, taking into account the width, volume of traffic, use, and condition of the public highway. Title 9, 841(a)

Statutory Speed Limit:

45 MPH in a rural zone Title 9, 841(b)(2)

See Other below.

25 MPH in an urban zone Title 9, 841(b)(1)

25 MPH in a school zone<sup>1</sup> Title 9, 841(b)(3)

Posted (Maximum) Speed Limit:

Based on traffic-engineering research, the Commonwealth or local authorities, on highways under their jurisdiction, may increase or decrease the above speed limits.<sup>2</sup> Title 9, 843

Minimum Speed Limit:

I. A person shall not drive a vehicle so slowly as to hinder or obstruct the normal and reasonable flow of traffic. Title 9, 842 ( 1)

II. A person, driving at less than the normal speed of traffic on highways with more than one lane, shall drive in the extreme right-hand lane. Title 9, 891(b)

Posted (Minimum) Speed Limit:

Based on traffic-engineering research, the Commonwealth or local authorities may establish a minimum speed limit on a highway. Title 9, 842 ( 2)

Other:

I. Heavy vehicles and buses (including school buses) cannot be driven >40 MPH. Title 9, 841(b)(2)

II. Vehicles carrying either toxic materials or dangerous substances cannot be driven either >30 MPH in a rural zone or >25 MPH in an urban zone. Title 9, 841(b)(4)

III. A vehicle, that is equipped with solid or massy tires, cannot be driven >10 MPH. Title 9, 845

Adjudication of Speed Law Violations:

Civil/Criminal Adjudication of Violation:

All Speed Law Violations are Misdemeanors. Title 9, 1221(a)

Other:

Sanctions Following an Adjudication of a Speed Law Violation:

Criminal Sanctions:

Imprisonment:

Term (Day, Month, Years,

Etc.):

1st offense-Not more than **10 days** 2nd offense (within 1 year)-Not

Sanctions Following an Adjudication of a Speed Law Violation:

(continued)

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<sup>1</sup> a school zone is in operation from 6:00 A.M. to 6:00 P.M. or at other times as identified by appropriate signs. Title 9, 841(b)(3)

[D]ifferent limits may be established for diverse hours, distinct types of vehicles, different weather conditions and other factors pertinent to a safe speed." Title 9, 8.

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### Imprisonment:

Term (Day, Month, Years,  
Etc.): (continued)

more than **20 days** Subsequent offense (within 1 year)-Not more than  
**6 months** Title 9, 1221(b)

### Mandatory Minimum Term: Fine:

**None**

Amount (\$ Range):

1st offense-Not more than **\$100** 2nd offense (within 1 year)-Not  
more than **\$200** Subsequent offense (within 1 year)-Not more than  
**\$500** Title 9, 1221(b)

Mandatory Min. Fine (\$):

**None**

### Other Penalties:

Traffic School:

Other:

### Licensing Action:

Type of Licensing Action

(Susp/Rev):

**Suspension** via a Point System<sup>3</sup> Title 9, 691(a)(3) & 694

Term of License Withdrawal

(Days, Months, Years, etc.):

Not more than **1 year** Title 9, 691(c)

Mandatory Minimum Term of  
Withdrawal:

**Limited**<sup>4</sup>

### Miscellaneous Sanctions

Not Included Elsewhere:

### Other Criminal Actions Related to Speeding:

#### Racing on Highway:

Misdemeanor Title 9, 1221(a) & 847

Sanctions:

Criminal Sanction:

Imprisonment (Term):

1st offense-**None** 2nd offense-Not more than **10 days** Subsequent  
offense-Not more than **30 days** Title 9, 847(b)

Mandatory Minimum Term:

**None**

Fine (\$ Range):

1st offense-**\$50 to \$300** 2nd offense-**\$100 to \$400** Subsequent  
offense-**\$200 to \$500** Title 9, 847(b)

Mandatory Minimum Fine:

**None**

### Other Criminal Actions Related to Speeding: (continued)

#### Racing on Highway: (continued)

Administrative Licensing Action:

Licensing Authorized and

**Point System.** I. If an offender accumulates 25 points, their license is suspended from 1 month to 1 year. Title 9, 694(f) II. The following points have been assessed and speed related violations: Reckless (gross negligent) driving-3 to 9 points; racing-3 to 8 points; excessive speeding-3 to 7 points; and, slow speed-1 to 2 points. Title 9, 694(a)(1), (2), (3) & (16)

The licensing agency is not required to suspend an offender's license, if the offender demonstrates that a license is needed for employment purposes. Such suspension is considered "ineffective" for 6 months. However, if during this period, the offender commits another violation for which they accumulate points, they are subject to a mandatory suspension for the original suspension period. Title 9, 694(i)

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Type of Action:	<b>Suspension</b> Title 9, 847(b)
Length of Term of Licensing Withdrawal:	<u>1st offense-1 to 6 months</u> <u>Subsequent offense-1 year</u> Title 9, 847(b)
Mandatory Action--Minimum Length of License Withdrawal:	<u>1st offense-1 month</u> <u>Subsequent offense-1 year</u> Title 9, 847(b) Note: These suspensions appear to be mandatory.
Other:	
<u>Reckless Driving</u> :	Misdemeanor Title 9, 1221(a) & 871
Sanction:	
Criminal:	
Imprisonment (Term):	<b>1 to 6 months</b> Title 9, 871(a)
Mandatory Minimum Term of Imprisonment:	<b>None</b>
Fine (\$ Range):	<b>\$100 to \$500</b> Title 9, 871(a)
Mandatory Minimum Fine:	<b>None</b>
Administrative Licensing Actions:	
Type of Licensing Action (Susp/Rev):	<u>1st offense-Suspension</u> via Point System <sup>3</sup> Title 9, 691(a)(3) & 694 <u>Subsequent offense-Revocation</u> Title 9, 871(b)
Length of Term of License Withdrawal Action:	<u>1st offense-1 month to 1 year</u> via Point System <sup>3</sup> Title 9, 691(a)(3) & 694 <u>2nd offense-3 months</u> <u>Subsequent offense-6 months</u> Title 9, 871(b)
Mandatory Term of License Withdrawal Action:	<u>1st offense-Limited</u> via Point System <sup>4</sup> Title 9, 691(a)(3) & 694 <u>2nd offense-3 months</u> <u>Subsequent offense-6 months</u> Title 9, 871(b) Note: The revocations appear to be mandatory.
Other:	

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**SPEED LAWS III**